REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Divisional Application should retain the priority filing date of the original application of January 31, 2001 as no new matter has been entered. Accordingly, reconsideration and re-examination are requested.

Specification has been amended to incorporate cross-reference to the parent application. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct clerical matters in figure 7 that were previously entered and approved in the parent case. Accordingly, no new matter has been entered in the specification.

New method claims 50-59 are fully supported by the specification. Independent method claim 50 is supported by the specification at page 9, lines 4 to page 10, lines 1, which disclose a method of illuminating a trim panel that makes use of a transparent or translucent skin material and a paint layer (i.e., light blocking layer) applied over portions of the surface of the pliable cover. Independent claim 55 is supported by the specification at page 10, lines 2-14, which disclose the use of light pipes positioned behind a light transmissive cover skin.

In consideration of the amendments to the claims and the remarks hereinabove, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims currently pending in the application are believed to be in condition for examination.

In the event the Examiner deems personal contact is necessary, please contact the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-6560.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.
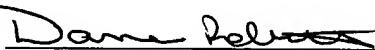
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Applications, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 18, 2003, at Manchester, New Hampshire.

by: _____
Dana Robertson